

SENATE—Tuesday, March 9, 1999

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by guest Chaplain Rev. Michael V. Kelsey, Sr., New Samaritan Baptist Church, Washington, DC. We are pleased to have you with us.

The guest Chaplain, Rev. Michael V. Kelsey, Sr., New Samaritan Baptist Church, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Father, we thank You for this day and for this Nation. We pray and intercede for the men and women who are in positions of authority. We hold them up before You, that the Spirit of wisdom and discernment may rest upon each of them as they seek to do what is blessed in Your sight and right for Your people.

God, may the hearts and ears of these Senators be attentive to Your divine order. We believe You cause them to be men and women of integrity who lead with compassion and commitment, competence and character.

Your Word, O God, declares, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."—Psalm 33:12. And God, we expect to receive Your blessing as the ultimate One who can guide and govern the affairs of this Nation.

Thank You for this land and the leaders You have given to us. We say discretion watches over them; understanding keeps them; and godliness surrounds them.

May the words of their mouths and the meditations of their hearts be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, our Strength, and our Redeemer.—Psalm 19:14. This is our prayer, in the name of the Lord.

Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader, the Senator from Pennsylvania, is recognized.

THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I, too, want to welcome Reverend Kelsey today and thank him for his inspirational prayer. He is one of the truly distinguished leaders of the church community here in Washington, DC.

Welcome back to Washington. You have been away for a while. It is good to have you back here, and it is terrific to have you here in the U.S. Senate.

Thank you for being here today.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I join my friend, the Senator from Pennsylvania, in welcoming our distinguished guest Chaplain. I thank him very much for his presence and for his inspiring message to all of us. We are very grateful to him for joining us here today.

We thank him very much for all the good work that he does and continues to do for his parishioners.

SCHEDULE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m. Under the previous order, Senator DURBIN, or his designee, will be in control of the time between 10:30 and 11:30 a.m., and Senator FRIST, or his designee, in control from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m.

Following morning business, the Senate will recess until 2:15 p.m., to allow the weekly party caucuses to meet. Upon reconvening at 2:15, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 280, the education flexibility partnership bill, for debate only, until 4 p.m., at which time the Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Jeffords substitute amendment. Senators are reminded that, pursuant to rule XXII, second-degree amendments must be filed by 3 p.m. in order to qualify postcloture.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S.J. RES. 13 AND S. 564

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk due for their second readings.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 13) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect Social Security.

A bill (S. 564) to reduce class size and for other purposes.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I object to further consideration of the measures at this time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The measures will go to the calendar.

Mr. KENNEDY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator is recognized.

THE DEATH OF ALBERT MURRAY, FATHER-IN-LAW OF SENATOR PATTY MURRAY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to take just a moment of the Senate's time to share with our family in the Senate a rather sad occasion that has

taken place. Last evening, at about 7:15, after we had recessed, I had a call from our friend and colleague from the State of Washington, Senator MURRAY, the principal proponent of our smaller class size amendment, who told me that her father-in-law had passed away yesterday. She had been on the floor all day. She returned after a very full day here on the floor leading us in this discussion on the question of smaller class size to learn that her father-in-law, Albert Murray, at the age of 80, had passed on. He had been a small business man for many years. He lived in Seattle and was very much involved in the community in a range of different activities to ensure that that community was going to be a better community.

The Murray family is a very close-knit family. They are an extended family. I had the opportunity to meet many of them at the time Senator MURRAY was initially sworn in here to the U.S. Senate.

She left last evening to return to the State of Washington to be with members of the family. I know all of us send our thoughts and prayers to Senator MURRAY, her husband Rob, and the entire Murray family. We are thinking about her and are mindful of her loss.

Mr. President, I yield myself such time that I might use.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANTORUM). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY PARTNERSHIP ACT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, today we will vote again on whether to end this debate on education—prematurely, I believe—or do our part to help communities meet critical educational needs. After a very limited 2-day debate on education last week, the majority leader filed cloture to end debate on the bill. The next day he filed the same cloture motion to force a second vote on whether to end the debate. The first cloture motion was defeated yesterday; the second cloture motion will be defeated today. I believe we should stop playing procedural games and vote on amendments that are critical to communities across the Nation.

Republican intentions are clear. They do not want a debate on education. They do not want a vote on the critical educational issues facing the Nation's communities: reducing class size, recruiting more teachers, expanding afterschool programs, bringing technology into the classroom, reducing dropout rates, modernizing school